

Question and Answer

Q: Under SC Restructuring, how will SC funded projects and other activities be managed at non-SC laboratories? For example, how will SC maintain management accountability and cognizance over the new Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies (CINT) at Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories? Will SC place staff locally to oversee the project or rely on NNSA management and staff?

A. Under both SC and NNSA Restructuring, Site Managers will be accountable for the work done under the management and operating (M&O) contract for the site. That includes assuring that customer expectations are met, regardless of the program that is funding the activity. Currently, a variety of plans and agreements are used to define expectations and communications. For example, in keeping with the DOE order on Project Management, SC construction projects have always had formalized lines of authority and responsibility established in Project Execution Plans (PEP) and Memoranda of Understanding (MOAs) contained in those Plans. Where necessary, these arrangements cut across Program Office lines involving NNSA and their Labs (LLNL, SNL, LANL, etc.). There are often MOAs between the cognizant DOE Operations and Site offices, as well as among the Labs themselves. This process has worked well and will continue to be used.

Q. The SC Restructuring anticipates that SC Site Offices will be accountable directly to the SC Director. How will this accountability be maintained for non-SC Support Centers and Site Offices performing services for SC?

A. The SC Restructuring Project Plan calls for the use of interface agreements between SC and other programs to define SC expectations and how communication and accountability will be maintained. These agreements will be used in cases not covered by standard DOE practices such as noted in the above answer. Similarly, SC Support Offices and Site Offices will perform services for other DOE programs under interface agreements that will assure the expectations of the sponsoring programs are met. Site Offices will be responsible to the Director of SC for responsibly fulfilling those agreements. The same management accountability will assure SC expectations are met by other programs, such as NNSA in the example of Sandia and Los Alamos, overseeing SC work at their facilities.